

Department: Department of Health and Welfare

Division: Division of Welfare

Program(s): Benefit Payments

Description: Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) from ARPA

1. Background:

In the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was signed into law on March 11, 2021, amounts were allocated for a new program at the federal level called the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This program will assist Idahoans who are in danger of having drinking water or wastewater services shut off pay outstanding and overdue bills. This program will likely follow the same process as LIHEAP, where the Community Action Partners around the state would administer the program, and review applications. These payments would go straight to water and wastewater owners and operators on behalf of qualified Idahoans.

2. Agency Request: The agency requested the following additional appropriation for FY 2022:*LIHWAP Funding Request:*

Fund	Type	OT	FTP	PC	OE	CO	TB	Total
0220-02	Fed	✓	0.00	\$ 30,000	\$ 570,000	\$ -	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 3,000,000

3. Motion: *I move for fiscal year 2022, for the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Welfare, an additional \$3,000,000 onetime from the Cooperative Welfare (Federal) Fund.*

Additional Language for the Division of Welfare for FY 2022

I request unanimous consent to accept the language as shown on the screen, and have it apply to the Division of Welfare for FY 2022.

SECTION __. For any funds received from P.L. 116-260 for child care, the Department of Health and Welfare shall phase out on or before December 31, 2021 the employee wage enhancements, increased co-pay of child care costs, the temporary increase of eligibility using the federal poverty guideline for child care subsidies, and provider grants.

Analyst Note: P.L. 116-260 is the COVID Relief Act, or the bill signed into law on December 27, 2020. This language would apply to the \$33,763,900 for Child Care contained in H369, which is on the House's third reading calendar.

Analyst Note: This language will be included in a bill which contains the following items:

- *Div of Public Health – COVID-19 Vaccines - \$10,151,200 – Action taken by JFAC on April 15*
- *Div of Welfare – Low Income Household Energy Assistance - \$14,000,000 – JFAC Action April 15*
- *Div of Welfare – Child Care Entitlement - \$3,125,000 – JFAC Action April 15*
- *Div of Welfare – Low Income Household Water Assistance - \$3,000,000 – JFAC Action TODAY*